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Senator Darwin Booher
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Booher

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 446 which addresses the use of "swing beds" in hospitals that operate an Extended Care Services Program. More than 30 years ago this program (commonly referred to as "swing beds") was established when census in many nursing facilities ran at capacity. Patients ready for discharge could temporarily remain at the hospital until a bed became available in a nearby nursing facility. In 2011, legislation was enacted which removed several state requirements and deferred to federal rules which gave hospitals with "swing beds" greater flexibility in their use.

In particular, these changes now allow a patient to remain in a "swing bed" for the length of the Medicare benefit period (up to 100 days), if they choose. Although, limits on the number of "swing bed" days per year (1,825) per participating hospital and the number of swing beds (10) apply.

Further, hospitals that operate a long-term care unit (nursing facility beds) cannot provide extended care services in a "swing bed" if nursing facility beds are open in that unit. This means if a patient has been discharged to a "swing bed" and a nursing facility bed becomes available they must be moved to that bed. It is this point that Senate Bill 446 seeks to change. If passed, the hospital would only be required to do this if a bed is available at the time the patient requires admission for extended care services.

We feel this is a reasonable accommodation to allow patients not to be transferred while receiving rehabilitation services.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Respectfully yours,

David LaLumia, President and CEO
Heath Care Association of Michigan

The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) is a statewide trade association representing Michigan's long-term care providers since 1948. Membership includes skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, county medical care facilities and hospital long-term units. HCAM currently represents more than 300 facilities.